

The Greatest Day

John 20

1: “only a fake ‘gospel’ would allow women to be witnesses of empty tomb or risen Lord.”

1: still dark – sequence:

dark Jn.20:1	dawn began Mt.28:1	early dawn Lk.24:1	sunrise Mk.16:2
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1-2: Mary (“we” – other women): ran *to...to...*

John 20

3-8: Peter and John study the empty tomb –

- 5: Looking in; two words
 - Bend over to look, focus on satisfying one's curiosity
 - Perceive with eye, see at a glance
- 6: went in...saw linen cloths folded: perceive, observe – complete survey
- 8: saw and believed (John).

Roman guards prove no one could steal body (Mt.28:11-13). (If asleep, how to know?)

John 20

9: ignorance explains unbelief; evidence in tomb shouts resurrection

10: John especially has reason to go home...
(19:26-27)

11: Mary, back at the tomb, weeps / stoops (5)

12-13: two angels

14: saw Jesus (v.6)

John 20

15: “Why are you weeping?” (13)

16: “Mary!” (10:3)

- Mary met three persons... (= Gn.18)
- Presence of angels (12): work of God, not robbers

17: “Do not cling to Me...”

18: work of fiction would give Peter . . . honor of first appearance . . . ?

What makes this day so special?

I. A day of life

Jn.20:1-2

- First day is third day (Jews understood, Mt.27:62-66)
- “Lord” exalts of Jesus...even if He was dead
- Grave-clothes (6-7) left behind ... folded??

Jn.1:4

- What if John ended at 19:30 –
“It is finished”?
- “Life”: 47 times in John. (Jn.14:6)
- Jn.12:10-11, Jews now plot to kill Lazarus.
 - If they could find Lord’s body, would they hide it?
- Jn.18, Pilate, opposite of Mary, tried to make a life for himself (advance) by not making waves...

I. A day of life

II. A day of love

Women

- Mary: one of last at the cross, first at the tomb (19:25; 20:1)
- No one loved Jesus more than Mary Magdalene.
 - 20:1, early, still dark = fourth watch of the night – 3-6 a.m.

Our motivation?

- Hell?
- Duty?
- Family?
- Love? 1 Jn.4:19
 - Love: 57 times in John
 - Love obeys: Jn.14:15

I. A day of life

II. A day of love

III. A day of faith

“Dead men stay dead...”?

- National Geographic
- Jesus Seminar
- Disciples (hiding, Jn.20:19)
 - Peter / John ran to tomb. Jn.20:8-9

¹ tomb open

² tomb empty

³ clothes folded

¹ John saw

² believed

³ unexpected

“Dead men stay dead...”?

- Thomas: no sight, no faith. Jn.20:
 - 27: Lord quotes his words
 - 28: no rebuke for his worship

From greatest doubt to greatest confession – climax of book?

- 29: includes us [have his faith without his experience]

Sight depends on senses

Faith depends on testimony

- 29: only a carnal mind must see a miracle
 - Would require continuous miracles for each person until Jesus comes
- 30-31: biblical faith accepts testimony
 - John wants to bring readers to his faith
 - John 9 – believing is seeing

I. A day of life

II. A day of love

III. A day of faith

IV. A day of hope

Jn.20

Mary experienced at least three levels of joy –

- Angels, 11-13
- Jesus, 14-17
- Disciples – she announces resurrection to them, 18

Mary was not satisfied in
presence of angels, 13

Jesus stood near Mary; she
did not know it, 14-16

Jn.20:17...27

Mary's holding and Thomas' handling are different; Jesus came to leave

1 Co.15, He is raised.

Lazarus, John 11 –

Left tomb with wrappings of the dead still binding him hand and foot...

Jesus left His wrappings in the grave –
He is risen!

We will leave our grave clothes behind

Jn.20:20

Disciples rejoiced for His sake, their sake,
world's sake

His resurrection overcomes . . .

1. Meaningless existence.
2. Gloom of tomb.
3. Earthly injustices.

Look around you and be distressed.
Look within you and be depressed.
Look to Jesus and be at rest.

Garden, Gn.3 – Paradise lost

Garden, Jn.20 – Paradise gained

1. Mood of Mary while clinging to Lord compares to Peter on Mountain, Mt.17.
2. Eve, first woman, brought sin into world. Mary, first to see resurrected Lord, brought hope of salvation.
3. Eve, in Paradise, gave man deadly fruit; Mary left sepulcher to announce life to discouraged disciples and lost sinners.

Pilate's 'tomb' orders – Mt.27:65

Mary came to the tomb...

Covered with heavy
boulder

Stone had been
removed

Protected by
Roman seal

Seal had been
broken

Guarded by Roman
soldiers

Soldiers had gone
AWOL

His resurrection is real

Explains . . .

1. Empty grave
2. Transformation of disciples
3. Church
4. New Testament
5. Steadfast disciples under persecution

Because He Lives

Love changes our attitude

Faith changes our life

Hope changes our outlook